United Nations A/C.5/60/SR.65

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Sixtieth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 65th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 28 June 2006, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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06-40871 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Expenditure authorization for the biennium 2006-2007

Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.44

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft decision A/C.5/60/L.44, entitled "Expenditure authorization for the biennium 2006-2007". Since the Committee's previous meeting, he had held consultations with a number of delegations, with the assistance of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Based on the outcome of those consultations, he believed it would be to the Committee's benefit to suspend the meeting to allow members to consult further before the Committee took action on the draft decision. He would be prepared to limit the duration of such consultations.

2. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group supported the draft decision and was ready to take action on it immediately. However, if the Chairman wished to consult further with Member States, it would be willing to accede to his request. The General Assembly had clearly stated in resolution 60/247 A that, when the Secretary-General requested authorization to enter into expenditure above the $950-million cap, such authorization would be granted automatically. The Secretary-General had confirmed that the time had come for the Assembly to authorize expenditure of the remaining funds appropriated for the biennium 2006-2007, and the Group of 77 and China stood ready to act in response to his request.

3. **Mr. Bolton** (United States of America) said that his delegation could agree to the suspension of the meeting. However, it did not recognize the version of events recounted by the representative of South Africa. A decision by the General Assembly would be required in order to lift the spending cap. Moreover, the adoption of draft decision A/C.5/60/L.44 would not be automatic; the action the Committee took would depend on the outcome of the informal consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 5.35 p.m.

4. **Mr. Bolton** (United States of America) said that, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, a number of areas critical to the reform and revitalization of the United Nations had been identified. Regrettably, 10 months later, little progress had been made in implementing that robust and ambitious agenda for reform. Instead of debating substantive issues, Member States had become bogged down in procedural discussions.

5. It was his delegation's wish to see meaningful reform of the United Nations that had prompted it to support the approval of only a six-month interim budget in December 2005. That had been the right decision: it had focused Member States' attention not only on the urgent need for reform, but also on the seriousness of purpose with which his delegation approached the issue. It was not in the long-term interests of the United Nations, much less of Member States, to continue delaying reforms that would serve to make the Organization stronger and more effective in fulfilling the mandates outlined in the Charter of the United Nations.

6. It was thus with deep regret that his delegation found it necessary to oppose the lifting of the spending cap and to dissociate itself from the consensus on the draft decision. It would, however, continue to press for change and reform at the United Nations and to work with other delegations and the Secretariat to achieve shared objectives. It trusted that, by the end of the resumed session, further concrete steps could be taken in that direction. The time had come to increase the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the United Nations and end the culture of inaction.

7. **Mr. Oshima** (Japan) said there was a clear need for a more efficient and effective United Nations. A reformed United Nations would be in the interests of all; preserving the status quo was not an option. His delegation had submitted proposals on various aspects of reform, including management reform and mandate review. It had hoped that Member States would be allowed more time for discussion with a view to achieving a broad-based consensus on the reform proposals and on the action to be taken in respect of the spending cap. However, a request had been made for action to be taken at the current meeting. Regrettably, his delegation was unable to join the consensus on the draft decision at the current stage. It trusted that the ongoing negotiations would bear fruit

and that, when the matter was taken up in the plenary Assembly, it would be in a position to join the consensus.

8. **Mr. Hill** (Australia) said that his delegation also wished to dissociate itself from the consensus. That outcome was regrettable, for he strongly believed that the Committee functioned better when it operated by consensus. Nevertheless, to lift the spending cap at the current stage would be premature. The cap had been a means of imposing discipline, to ensure that necessary reforms in the areas of management, oversight and mandates were put in place. Logically, the cap could only be lifted when reasonable progress had been made in those three areas. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

9. His delegation appreciated the guidance provided by the President of the General Assembly in his letter of 28 June 2006, which had been distributed informally. It was committed to working constructively over the next two days to achieve further progress prior to the scheduled completion of the Committee's work on 30 June 2006. The management reform proposals that his delegation had put forward would constitute modest yet important steps forward. It trusted that, at the end of the resumed session, Australia would be able to join other Member States in acknowledging that reasonable reform had been achieved in the three critical areas.

10. *Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.44 was adopted.*

11. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption of the draft decision, but expressed regret that three delegations had chosen to dissociate themselves from the consensus. The representatives of the United States of America, Japan and Australia should explain how Member States could work together towards common goals if their delegations dissociated themselves from the decisions taken.

12. The lifting of the spending cap without conditions was a positive step that could hardly be described as premature. The General Assembly had stated in resolution A/60/247 A that it would act in response to a request from the Secretary-General, at an appropriate time, for expenditure of the remaining funds appropriated for the biennium. On 20 June 2006, the Secretary-General had confirmed that the time had come to lift the cap, and the Group would have been ready to respond to his request at that time. Regrettably, action on the matter had been deferred on two occasions.

13. The cap had resulted in a poisonous and abusive atmosphere and had undermined the trust that was so essential if delegations were to work together. The Group was committed to rebuilding that trust, but that would be a difficult task under the current circumstances. Lastly, the Group would spare no effort to build a stronger United Nations, for it was convinced that the Organization mattered to all delegations, including those that had felt unable to join the consensus.

14. **Mr. Pfanzelter** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had joined the consensus because it was imperative that the Organization should be able to function and deliver services. It was grateful to the President of the General Assembly for his efforts to bridge the gap between delegations and create an atmosphere of trust. The President's letter of 28 June 2006 reflected the remarkable progress made thus far in implementing reform, as well as setting out what remained to be done. In that regard, the letter was in line with the key players' understanding of the situation. He urged Member States to use the remaining days to produce a major breakthrough. The lifting of the spending cap should serve as a catalyst in that process. The European Union was confident that the Committee could successfully complete its work by 30 June 2006, having made tangible progress towards reform. However, it wished to stress that the Committee could not operate in an atmosphere of polarization, suspicion and mistrust. Rather, delegations must work together to build a spirit of global partnership.

15. **Ms. Pierce** (United Kingdom) said it was important, for the effective functioning of the United Nations, that the decision to lift the spending cap should be made by consensus. Her delegation would work hard to secure an agreement on much-needed reforms by the end of the week. It trusted that, if the Committee was able to complete its work successfully, based on the elements outlined in the letter from the President of the General Assembly, all Member States would be able to join the consensus when draft decision A/C.5/60/L.44 was taken up in the plenary Assembly.

Revised estimates to the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007: additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/60/7/Add.42 and A/60/899)

16. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General regarding additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/60/899), recalled that, as stated in paragraph 130 of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates in connection with the 2005 World Summit Outcome (A/60/537), the central support costs identified in that report had represented initial estimates which might require revision because the Palais Wilson lacked enough space to accommodate additional staff of OHCHR in conditions which were suitable and which did not endanger their health and safety.

17. The acute shortage of office space in Geneva had led OHCHR, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the host country's Building Foundation for International Organizations to select an alternative site, located at 48 rue Giuseppe Motta. The lease, which would be concluded between the landlord and the Building Foundation, contained the option of subletting to the United Nations Office at Geneva, which would be obliged — if the option was exercised — to assume the terms of the contract as outlined in paragraph 10 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/899).

18. Taking into account the estimated resource requirements for expanded office space, the sums already appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/246, extrabudgetary resources and a $1,540,300 contribution from the host Government, the additional requirements under the regular budget for the biennium 2006-2007 amounted to $4,975,900.

19. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/7/Add.42), said that, as a practical solution must be adopted to meet the immediate demand for office space, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should note the host Government's intended contribution and appropriate the additional sums required under the budget for the biennium, as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/899, para. 22).

Agenda item 122: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 129: Human resources management (*continued*)

Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report (*continued*) (A/60/846/Add.5 and Add.7, A/60/903 and A/60/904)

20. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) introduced the fifth addendum to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report" (A/60/846/Add.5), which concerned procurement reform. Procurement had been a focus of the efforts to reform the United Nations and improve the efficiency of the Organization's administrative and financial functioning. Over the last two years, the annual value of procurement had increased significantly, from $1 billion to $1.8 billion, as a result of the surge in peacekeeping activities. That had created enormous challenges and placed great pressure on the procurement process. In that connection, he paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of procurement staff both at Headquarters and in the field.

21. A study undertaken by external consultants in 2005 had revealed some opportunities to strengthen the internal controls of procurement operations, while the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the comprehensive management audit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/60/717) had contained substantive observations on a number

of procurement cases at Headquarters and in peacekeeping missions.

22. The report before the Committee described the measures taken by the Secretariat pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/288, as well as new initiatives that had been, or were being, implemented on the basis of the Secretary-General's initial report entitled "Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide" (A/60/692) and in response to General Assembly resolution 60/260.

23. While Member States' support was most welcome, the ongoing procurement reform efforts would not produce results unless adequate resources, including human resources, were provided to the Procurement Service. The Administration was requesting 6 new posts and 1 reclassification, in addition to the 11 new posts requested for the Procurement Service in the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/60/727). The resources requested for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Headquarters Committee on Contracts under the 2006/07 support account for activities relating to procurement were also summarized in the report. He urged the Committee to approve the resources requested for the Procurement Service and the establishment of the new posts, noting that temporary arrangements would make it difficult to recruit qualified candidates.

24. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of ACABQ (A/60/904), said that the Advisory Committee had sought to facilitate the Committee's deliberations by providing as clear a picture as possible of the resources requested in the Secretary-General's report. The request involved requirements which had been included in the budget for the support account for 2006/07 and on which the Advisory Committee had recommended deferring action, as well as new requirements under both the support account and the regular budget.

25. The emphasis in the Secretary-General's report was on internal control measures aimed at dealing with the problems identified by OIOS and the external consultants. Other aspects of procurement reform were not as well developed. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would elaborate on those aspects in greater detail in the forthcoming reports on governance and human resources management reform.

26. While the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report were merely one stage in a process, additional resources were urgently needed in order to move that process forward and to address the deficiencies identified. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended approval of the resources requested, in the amount of $5.2 million.

27. Ms. Lock (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Member States must make a collective effort to strengthen the Organization's oversight and auditing bodies. For the General Assembly to be able to review the matter comprehensively and take decisions that would provide a solid operating basis for those bodies, Member States must receive the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee in a timely manner.

28. Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/248, had decided to establish the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Group pointed out that time pressure had prevented the Member States from finalizing the terms of reference for that Committee at the time of the decision. Furthermore, the outcome of the governance review and external evaluation of audit and oversight, which would influence the discussion, had not yet been presented to the Fifth Committee or the Advisory Committee. The Group therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/846/Add.7) should be deferred until the main part of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

29. In the absence of a General Assembly decision on the mandate or composition of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, or the qualifications or selection of its members, the Group could not clearly see the rationale for the Advisory Committee's recommendation, in paragraph 10 of its interim report (A/60/903), that the new body's secretariat should be staffed under general temporary assistance arrangements, and would like the Advisory Committee to clarify that issue. It would also like clarification of the recommendation, in paragraph 12 of the same report, that OIOS should be authorized to submit its budget to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee. As the Member States were not yet aware

of the outcome of the external evaluation performed at their request to consider issues including the operational and budgetary independence of OIOS, her Group could not see how that recommendation was relevant to the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, unless it specifically addressed the interaction between the latter and OIOS.

30. The Group welcomed the ACABQ report on procurement reform (A/60/904), but regretted that it had not been made available to Member States until the previous day. Believing that the Member States should not take rushed decisions on matters which could affect the management and oversight of billions of dollars, as well as the Organization's reputation, the Group wished to revert to the matter at the sixty-first session. The Member States' decisions must translate into a more transparent and effective procurement system which also reflected the international character of the Organization.

31. The Group trusted that the Secretariat, in the meantime, would provide the information which the General Assembly had requested in section V of its resolution 60/260, particularly proposals on increasing procurement opportunities for vendors from developing countries. Noting also that the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 4 of its report (A/60/904), had observed that some aspects of procurement reform had not been well developed in the Secretary-General's report (A/60/846/Add.5), it trusted that the Secretariat would provide further reports to enable the Member States to approach procurement reform in a more comprehensive way at the sixty-first session.

32. **Mr. Drofenik** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia; and, in addition, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that procurement reform was an essential part of the wider management reform process. The European Union fully supported efforts, outlined in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/60/846/Add.5), to strengthen internal control measures and to optimize United Nations policies in order to reduce acquisition costs and improve strategic management of procurement. Such efforts were important to enhance transparency, accountability and the ethical behaviour of staff within the Organization.

33. With recent reports on peacekeeping mission procurement having revealed inadequate internal controls, accountability measures and resources, the European Union believed that procurement practices, even in the field, must always follow established financial rules and regulations. It welcomed the steps taken, in the wake of the OIOS audit of that aspect of procurement, to segregate duties and processes in order to avoid conflicts of interest, increase transparency and accountability, and promote integrity and ethics.

34. Agreeing with the Advisory Committee that a number of forthcoming reports might have an impact on procurement reform, and noting that the late issuance of the reports before the Fifth Committee left it with little time to address their substance, the European Union was prepared to take a decision on the additional resources without delay and to revert to procurement policies and regulations during the main part of the sixty-first session. It would remain actively engaged in the discussion of additional capacity for the Procurement Service and trusted that the additional resources would improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the United Nations procurement system.

35. **Mr. Garcia** (United States of America) said that procurement reform must be a management priority. Without accountable, cost-effective, efficient and transparent procurement practices, the Organization's essential goods and services would not be efficiently and effectively managed and billions of dollars of assessed contributions might be ill spent or not properly accounted for. It was unacceptable that so many field procurement positions remained vacant and that procurement staff lacked sufficient knowledge to adequately perform their functions. Those problems must be dealt with immediately.

36. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's report and was grateful for the ongoing efforts to strengthen the internal controls of procurement operations, optimize United Nations acquisition and procurement management, reduce costs and implement a more strategic approach to procurement management. It was also pleased that the Secretary-General was taking steps to address the concerns raised in the various reports and studies on procurement. It noted, in particular, the enhancement of training for procurement staff, the promotion of the "best value for money" principle, the finalization of a United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct, the updating of the Procurement

Manual and the initiatives taken to develop a concept of strategic sourcing and achieve further synergies in the United Nations system through partnering.

37. If the Organization was to have effective and efficient procurement operations, adequate resources must be provided. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that, while the procurement reforms outlined in the Secretary-General's report required further development, the resources requested were urgently needed. At the same time, more proactive steps must be taken to improve oversight, strengthen internal controls and establish clear lines of authority for procurement staff. While the ongoing investigations into procurement irregularities must be thorough, they must be concluded expeditiously. Lastly, he called on the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive progress report on procurement reform at the main part of the sixty-first session.

38. **Mr. Aljunied** (Singapore) said that his delegation would like the Controller to clarify the reference to consultants in his introduction of the Secretary-General's report on procurement reform (A/60/846/Add.5). He wondered who had taken the decision to engage such consultants to study procurement, and who those consultants were.

39. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that the Under-Secretary-General for Management had taken the decision to engage outside consultants, following discussions with the Secretary-General. The company chosen had been Deloitte Consulting.

40. **Mr. Aljunied** (Singapore) said that his delegation supported the proposal, made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, that detailed consideration of document A/60/846/Add.5 should be deferred to the main part of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. Procurement was a complex matter involving substantial human and financial resources. Many recent criticisms of the Organization had centred on that issue and on apparent transgressions by United Nations staff, several of whom had been on administrative leave for six months without being formally charged. Meanwhile, a senior official of the Organization had heightened media speculation that the United Nations was rife with corruption. With so much at stake, the Fifth Committee should not be seen to endorse the document in question without a thorough review.

41. While the report on procurement had taken into account the findings of a Deloitte study commissioned by the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the Member States had had no opportunity to examine or evaluate those findings, which had been presented to the Committee in a cursory manner during a wider discussion of management reform. As the findings did not seem robust, the Secretariat should not have drawn conclusions from them. Secretariat officials, including the Under-Secretary-General for Management, should provide the Committee with a clear and comprehensive presentation of the consultants' report, so that the Committee could fully consider the document before it.

42. The requirement of due process demanded that the investigations into alleged transgressions in procurement should be completed urgently, as eight staff members who had not been formally charged remained in limbo. Moreover, the outcome of the investigations would influence the Committee's views on the procurement process. The Committee would have to examine the investigation itself if it proved to be baseless.

43. **Mr. Kozaki** (Japan) said that the Committee must focus its attention on procurement procedures, internal controls and accountability as a matter of priority. The Secretary-General's report on procurement (A/60/846/Add.5) should be regarded as an update on the procurement reform effort, as it had been submitted too late for the Committee to discuss it in detail. Although the necessary review of financial rules and regulations must therefore be deferred until the main part of the sixty-first session, the Committee should provide the resources requested for procurement reform on an exceptional basis.

44. **Mr. Kovalenko** (Russian Federation), recalling that General Assembly resolution 60/248 had specified that the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee should reflect the outcome of the ongoing review of oversight, said that the Committee should not discuss the selection and appointment of that Committee's members until the outcome of the review in question was known. Moreover, the Fifth Committee should consider the views of the Board of Auditors and the Panel of External Auditors on their interaction with the new body and on the latter's terms of reference and their compatibility with the principle that external audit staff should be independent.

45. The selection and appointment process should not go forward until the General Assembly had adopted the terms of reference, which would establish the corresponding criteria and procedures. Since the Secretariat, including the Secretary-General, would be subject to the new Committee's oversight, it should in no way be involved in the selection of the latter's members. The suggestion that those members should be nominated by the Secretary-General ran counter to best practice in the public and private sectors and would undermine the new body's independence, not from the Member States, but from the management of the Organization. As a result, his delegation felt that the selection process should not begin until the General Assembly had adopted the terms of reference.

46. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), addressing the matters raised by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Advisory Committee had recommended the immediate approval of general temporary assistance for the secretariat of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee because some personnel were likely to be needed to perform organizational and preparatory work even before the General Assembly took a final decision on that secretariat's staffing, and before the new Committee's members took up their posts.

47. The recommendation that OIOS should be authorized to bypass the Programme Planning and Budget Division and submit its budget to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee was not new. The Advisory Committee had previously suggested such an approach as an interim measure pending the consideration of the oversight and governance reports and the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (A/60/7/Add.23, para.18). However, the Advisory Committee recognized that its suggestion was not based on any technical analysis of the situation, and fully understood that the General Assembly must have a free hand in deciding on procedures for dealing with the budget of OIOS, pending the approval of the new Committee's terms of reference.

48. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), in response to the questions posed by the representative of Singapore, indicated that the Deloitte Consulting report had been available on the Organization's website for some six months, but that the Secretariat was willing to provide a clear and comprehensive presentation of it, should the Committee so request. While he could not specify who would make that presentation, every effort would be made to ensure that all questions from the Committee were answered.

49. **Mr. Aljunied** (Singapore) said that his delegation felt it would be appropriate for the Under-Secretary-General for Management to present the findings of the Deloitte report, so that the Department of Management could complete a process which had remained unfinished.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/60/SR.66

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 66th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 June 2006, at 7.35 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*)

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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (*continued*)

Additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*continued*)

Capital master plan (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 7.35 p.m.

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a list of corrections and adjustments to the existing texts of draft resolutions A/C.5/60/L.46, L.49, L.50, L.51, L.52, L.54, L.56, L.58, L.59 and L.60, which were before the Committee at the current meeting. The corrections and adjustments would be reflected in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Cross-cutting issues (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.60

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.60 was adopted.*

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.59

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.59 was adopted.*

Support account for peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.62)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.62

4. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.62 was adopted.*

Note by the Secretary-General on financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/60/31)

5. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/60/31, which, in accordance with the prorating procedures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned for each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share for the support account and for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

6. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the note by the Secretary-General indicated how resources would be apportioned among the budgets of active peacekeeping operations, taking into account the use of resources from the excess balance of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. The amounts would be reflected in the draft resolutions on the individual peacekeeping missions and, following their adoption by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would issue a note on the total approved budget for the financial year 2006/07.

7. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the information contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

8. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.53

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.53 was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.55

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.55 was adopted.*

Agenda item 139: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.49

11. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.49 was adopted.*

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.56

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.56 was adopted.*

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.57

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.57 was adopted.*

Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.61)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.61

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.61 was adopted.*

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.50

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.50 was adopted.*

Agenda item 145: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.58)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.58

16. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.58 was adopted.*

Agenda item 146: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.45

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.45 was adopted.*

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.51

18. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.51 was adopted.*

Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.52

19. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.52 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.54

20. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.54 was adopted.*

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.42)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42

21. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, which had been introduced by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the Committee's 64th meeting.

22. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the sponsors wished to make two oral revisions to the text of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, reflecting the agreement reached in informal consultations to refer, in each of the peacekeeping financing resolutions, to the resolution on cross-cutting issues, just adopted by the Committee as A/C.5/60/L.60. Thus, in paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, the words "and resolution 60/— of —" should be inserted after the words "General Assembly resolution 59/296 of 22 June 2005". Similarly, paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 should read, "Reaffirms its resolution 59/296, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/—". In both cases, "resolution 60/—" would refer to the final form of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.60.

23. *A single recorded vote was taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of the draft resolution.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea,

Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

24. *The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 were adopted by 93 votes to 5, with 49 abstentions.**

25. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution, as orally revised, as a whole.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 144 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.***

27. **Mr. Sermoneta** (Israel) reiterated Israel's strong support for the important work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Israel had paid its full assessed contribution to UNIFIL on time and without conditions and would continue to do so. By

* The delegation of Guyana subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of the draft resolution.

** The delegation of Viet Nam subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole, as orally revised.

contrast, some of the sponsors of the draft resolution just adopted had been consistently delinquent in paying their full UNIFIL assessments.

28. His delegation regretted the deliberate and inappropriate politicization of the item. Politically motivated, one-sided language had no place in a resolution on technical issues, compromised its intention and undermined its effectiveness and the credibility of the Committee's work. Moreover, the paragraphs in question violated the principle of collective responsibility for the Organization's expenses set out in Article 17 of the Charter. That was the only principle that was relevant to the issue of damages resulting from acts of self-defence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/235.

29. There was no precedent for demanding that one Member State should bear sole responsibility for costs incurred when armed groups endangered United Nations peacekeeping forces. In all other such incidents in the past, regardless of the circumstances, expenses had been settled through the application of collective responsibility. The attempt to treat UNIFIL differently singled out Israel in an unfair and discriminatory manner.

30. While it had no objection to the technical aspects of the draft resolution, his delegation had voted against the paragraphs in question and the draft resolution — as orally revised — as a whole because of the politicization of the issue. It hoped that productivity, rather than politics, would guide the Committee's work in the future.

31. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada) said that a consensus resolution on the financing of UNIFIL had once again been prevented by the addition of inappropriate paragraphs on which a separate vote had been requested. The paragraphs in question undermined a long-held understanding that political considerations had no place in resolutions of a technical nature. Resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations must be neutral and procedural texts. Because neutrality was a core aspect of peacekeeping, every attempt to politicize such operations should be opposed vehemently. Moreover, in the case in question, it was inappropriate to target one party for criticism and non-compliance with United Nations resolutions. With that in mind, his delegation hoped that the proponents of the language in the resolution would re-evaluate their actions and withdraw the paragraphs in question in the future.

32. **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America) reiterated her delegation's support for the important mandate of UNIFIL and its view that it was procedurally incorrect to use a General Assembly resolution on funding to pursue claims against a Member State. Her delegation opposed the current and previous resolutions, which had not been adopted by consensus and required Israel to meet costs stemming from the 1996 Qana incident. The correct procedure, which dated back almost to the Organization's inception, was for the Secretary-General to pursue settlement of the Organization's claims against a State or States. Using a resolution on financing to legislate such a settlement was inappropriate and politicized the work of the Committee. That practice should be avoided in the future.

33. **Ms. Stevens** (Australia) said that, while Australia strongly supported the continued existence of UNIFIL, it had, as in previous years, abstained in the vote on the draft resolution because of the continued incorporation of unwarranted political considerations which had distracted the Committee's attention from the budgetary issues that should rightly remain its focus.

34. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (A/C.5/60/L.54) and had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL (A/C.5/60/L.42). That stance was based on the principle, repeatedly emphasized by his delegation, that responsibility for financing both forces should be borne by the aggressor party — Israel — pursuant to the principle contained in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

35. The aggressor continued to violate international law and Security Council resolutions. Two days earlier, Israeli aircraft had violated Syrian airspace above its Mediterranean beaches. Such acts of provocation and aggression had clear objectives and proved that Israel did not want to take the steps necessary for a just and comprehensive peace pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions.

36. **Ms. Ziade** (Lebanon) said that those who complained about the politicization of the issue were the ones that were politicizing it. Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 addressed a purely financial issue that involved compensating the United Nations, not Lebanon. The General Assembly, based on a report

submitted by the Secretary-General at the fifty-first session, had asked the State responsible to compensate the United Nations.

37. Lebanon observed the principle that the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of all Member States, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 55/235. However, the principle of collective responsibility did not contradict the general principle of State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts, including compensation for material damage resulting from such acts. That principle was enshrined in the Charter and was implied in paragraph 1 (e) of General Assembly resolution 55/235, which stated that, where circumstances warranted, the Assembly should give special consideration to the situation of any Member States which were victims of, and those which were otherwise involved in, the events or actions leading to a peacekeeping operation. It was on that basis that nine previous General Assembly resolutions had requested the payment of compensation to the United Nations for the damage incurred as a result of the attack on the peacekeeping post at Qana. That request was reiterated in the fourth preambular paragraph and in paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42.

38. **Mr. Weidinger** (Austria) said that the States members of the European Union had abstained in the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 because the text contained therein was inappropriate in the context of a resolution on the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the incident at Qana had been debated by the General Assembly in April 1996, resulting in resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996. The European Union had stated its position on those political aspects at the meeting at which the Assembly had adopted that resolution. The European Union wished to underline, once again, that the Committee's consultations should have been confined to budgetary issues.

39. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand) said that his delegation regretted the fact that, once again, a consensus resolution on the item in question had not been possible. The political elements contained in the paragraphs on which a separate vote had been taken should not have been included in a financing resolution. For that reason, his delegation had abstained in the vote on those paragraphs.

40. **Mr. Sermoneta** (Israel) said that he felt compelled to take the floor again in order to remind the Committee, in particular the Syrian delegation, that the reason there was a peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights was that in October 1973 Israel had been attacked by the Syrian Arab Republic, among others. It was mind-boggling to hear the Syrian representative, who spoke on behalf of one of the most repressive regimes in the region and perhaps in the world, preaching to the Israeli delegation. The Committee should bear in mind that the Syrian Arab Republic was involved in financing and harbouring terrorists. Indeed, it was the terrorist organization Hizbollah, sponsored by the Syrian Arab Republic, that had been responsible for the Qana incident. He had not intended to revisit past events, but the word "aggressor" was clearly being misapplied in the current discussion.

41. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that Israel had attacked Arab States and occupied Syrian territories since 1967. The war referred to by the representative of Israel was a war of liberation, legitimized by international law and the right to self-defence, as well as the right to eject an occupier. Israel had been founded on terrorism, and its daily oppression against the Palestinian people was proof of it's continued terrorism.

42. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that Israel always talked about certain principles and then violated them. It complained about the politicization of the draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL and then turned the dialogue into a political one. On several occasions Israel had referred to Hizbollah as a terrorist organization. In fact, Hizbollah had deputies in the Lebanese Parliament and ministers in the Lebanese Government. It had also led a very valuable resistance movement against a very aggressive Israeli force, which had invaded Lebanon and stayed there for 22 years. Without Lebanon's resistance, Israel would have stayed in its territory. All the comments made about Hizbollah were evidently a distortion of reality.

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.47

43. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.47 was adopted.*

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.46

44. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.46 was adopted.*

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.48

45. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.48 was adopted.*

Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.63)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.63

46. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.63 was adopted.*

Additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.65)

Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.65

47. *Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.65 was adopted.*

Capital master plan (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.66

48. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.66 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 8.25 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/60/SR.67

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Summary record of the 67th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 July 2006, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

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Questions deferred for future consideration

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06-42004 (E)

Election of the Chairman and officers for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed sixtieth session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 46: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields (*continued*)

Agenda item 118: United Nations reform: measures and proposals (*continued*)

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Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.67

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.67 was adopted.*

2. **Mr. Hill** (Australia) said that the draft resolution contained important conclusions regarding improved management in the Organization for more efficient delivery of United Nations programmes and services. The establishment of a post of Chief Information Technology Officer and the introduction of a next-generation enterprise resource planning (ERP) system were challenging but necessary steps to achieve contemporary standards of management. The adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) also contributed to that goal, and the limited budgetary discretion to be given to the Secretary-General, though modest, was also a step in the right direction. His delegation was also pleased that the Secretary-General was to draw up a single comprehensive annual report.

3. While the decisions in the current draft resolution were significant enough for his delegation to join the consensus, it was important to acknowledge that urgent measures had not been taken in some areas: the Committee had not acted to establish more independent oversight of operational and financial matters or to establish posts for staff whose specific purpose would be to ensure that resources for development, peacekeeping and other United Nations activities were not lost through questionable procurement practices. The Member States had therefore missed opportunities to address outside criticism by demonstrating their commitment to independent oversight and procurement reform.

4. However, the current decisions constituted a further step in a process that was necessarily an ongoing one. His delegation looked forward to making more progress at the sixty-first session in ensuring that the Secretariat better fulfilled the intentions of the Member States. Accountability was vital in that regard: the Member States must hold the Secretariat properly accountable for service delivery. The General Assembly must not seek to pass on to the Secretariat the task of determining what levels and methods of accountability were appropriate, and what the consequences of failing to deliver should be. Member States would begin to meet their own responsibilities when they held the Secretariat accountable for outcomes rather than processes.

5. **Ms. Pehrman** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Serbia; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the initial management reform measures provided a useful basis for transforming the United Nations into a more efficient and accountable organization, as agreed by Heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit. The establishment of the post of Chief Information Technology Officer would help to build an effective information and communication management strategy for the entire Secretariat; the replacement of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS)

with a modernized enterprise resource planning (ERP) system would provide a high degree of transparency and accountability; and the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) would improve the management of assets. The European Union looked forward to receiving more information on the policy for public access to United Nations documentation to make the Secretariat more open, transparent and accountable; to the issuance of a comprehensive annual report containing both financial and programme information; and to the implementation of the ongoing procurement reform.

6. The Committee had agreed to give the Secretary-General limited discretion in budgetary implementation under experimental arrangements much narrower in scope than those which the European Union had favoured. While it would have preferred to go substantially further and respond more directly to the Secretary-General's proposals, thereby enabling the Secretariat to react more swiftly to changing needs and events, it recognized that more work was required to build strong support for greater discretion and to allay other States' misgivings. In view of the modest scale of the mechanism currently provided for, the European Union expected the Secretariat to take full advantage of it by actively identifying potential efficiencies and offsets rather than simply waiting to see whether savings arose or whether vacant posts were filled less quickly than anticipated. It hoped that a swift and efficient procedure could be established for obtaining the necessary concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for discretionary expenditure of sums of over $6 million, so that that requirement would not prove an onerous burden and a disincentive for the Secretariat.

7. Furthermore, the European Union assumed that the experimental mechanism would not involve direct or indirect costs beyond the budget resources initially agreed at the outset of each biennium. It expected the Secretary-General to continue to use the 50-post redeployment experiment to the full for the remainder of the current biennium, in parallel with the new experiment, and hoped that the report on the former, to be considered at the sixty-second session, would demonstrate active and successful use of that form of redeployment, thereby promoting more understanding of its practical benefits to the Organization.

8. The European Union shared the Secretary-General's view that reform was a process rather than an event. Acknowledging that much remained to be done, it looked forward to discussing at the sixty-first session, issues of governance, oversight and accountability, human resources management, procurement reform and the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts.

9. **Mr. Ozawa** (Japan) said that the current draft resolution, the result of lengthy negotiations conducted in a spirit of compromise, was one part of a continuous endeavour to improve management at the United Nations. His delegation had joined the consensus on it, while recognizing that issues such as procurement and the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee required further work at the sixty-first session in order to make the Organization more effective.

10. **Ms. Soni** (Canada) said that Canada was committed to the undertakings made at the 2005 World Summit. While the current draft resolution was not perfect, it had been the product of consensus and had enabled the Member States to further the process of management reform. However, her delegation was concerned at the lack of agreement on arrangements to make the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) operationally independent. Moreover, as her delegation had favoured giving the Secretary-General the managerial discretion he needed to ensure that the Organization could respond swiftly to changing needs, it was disappointed that the limited discretion provided for in the draft resolution was narrower than what the Secretary-General had requested. Although the General Assembly had decided that the experiment involving the discretionary redeployment of up to 50 posts should not continue beyond the current biennium, the Secretary-General should not abandon that method of flexibility. Canada looked forward to the report on the implementation of flexibility, to be submitted at the sixty-second session.

11. **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba) said that, although his delegation welcomed the joint efforts of the Member States in adopting the draft resolution, it regretted that the late issuance of documents had left the Committee too little time to discuss management reform appropriately. It hoped that delegations would refrain in the future from including in draft resolutions issues which were extraneous because they were not scheduled for action by the Committee. The issue of ensuring the operational independence of OIOS was scheduled for in-depth discussion at the sixty-first

session. There should be no attempts to induce the Committee to take decisions that were not based on adequate information or to use its reform resolutions to promote unrelated political agendas.

12. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) said that the adoption of the current draft resolution had marked the return of the spirit of consensus and proved that impositions and preconditions only derailed negotiations and undermined the climate of amity. The Committee must agree to avoid the discord of the recent past. The spending cap was an aberration whose removal had restored vigour to the Committee's work. His delegation supported efforts to make the Organization strong, effective and democratic and particularly hoped that reform would ensure timely and rapid reimbursement to troop-contributing States. Noting the repeated warnings that lack of flexibility stood in the way of effective United Nations action, his delegation hoped that the tools newly placed at the disposal of the Secretary-General would improve the situation and enable the Member States to hold the Secretariat fully accountable for the use of resources.

Agenda item 122: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Questions deferred for future consideration (A/C.5/60/L.64)

Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.64

13. *Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.64 was adopted.*

14. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she wished to state for the record that, as previously agreed, the deferral of the Committee's consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals on financial management practices (A/60/846/Add.3) pertained only to those proposals to which the Committee had collectively decided to revert at the sixty-first session. The proposals in question were listed in section VII of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.67.

15. At the Committee's 65th meeting, the Group had requested that the Committee should revert, at the sixty-first session, to the Secretary-General's proposals on procurement reform (A/60/846/Add.5). It also expected that the Secretariat would be able to submit additional information in response to section V of General Assembly resolution 60/260 and that the question of administration of justice, including the report of the redesign panel on administration of justice, would be taken up again, in view of its importance for strengthening human resources management.

16. **Mr. Aljunied** (Singapore) reiterated the request he had made at the Committee's 65th meeting, for the Under-Secretary-General for Management to provide more comprehensive information, at the sixty-first session, on the Deloitte report relating to procurement. He asked for a status report on that request.

17. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) replied that there would be a follow-up briefing on the matter at the sixty-first session. As the Under-Secretary-General for Management had given the original briefing, it was expected that he would be available for the follow-up briefing.

Election of the Chairman and officers for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly

18. **The Chairman**, recalling the decision of the General Assembly, at its 89th plenary meeting regarding postponement of the election of the Chairman and officers of the Fifth Committee for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly (A/60/PV.89) and rules 99 (a) and 103 of the rules of procedure, as amended by General Assembly resolutions 56/509 and 58/126, respectively, said that the Committee would proceed to the election of its officers for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

19. Mr. Yousfi (Algeria) had been nominated for election to the office of Chairman for the sixty-first session. In the absence of further nominations and in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Yousfi (Algeria) Chairman.

20. *Mr. Yousfi (Algeria) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

21. **The Chairman** said that the Group of Western European and Other States and the Group of Eastern European States had nominated, respectively, Mr. Mitsopoulos (Greece) and Mr. Mammadov (Azerbaijan) for the posts of Vice-Chairmen and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had nominated Mr. Simancas (Mexico) for the post of

Rapporteur. The election of the Vice-Chairman from the Group of Asian States would be held at a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

22. *Mr. Mitsopoulos (Greece) and Mr. Mammadov (Azerbaijan) were elected Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Simancas (Mexico) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed sixtieth session of the General Assembly

23. After an exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria), on behalf of the African Group, **Ms. Aghajanian** (Armenia), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, **Mr. Torrington** (Guyana), on behalf of the Rio Group, **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba), **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda) and **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) took part, **the Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work for the second part of the resumed sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.